

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## President elected; record budget adopted

By Tim Nicholas, director  
Office of Communication

Mississippi Baptists, during their 164th annual convention at First Baptist Church, Jackson, Oct. 26 and 27:

- elected as president Kermit McGregor, pastor of First Church, Mendenhall;
- unanimously adopted a record \$28 million Cooperative Program (CP) budget for year 2000; and
- passed resolutions recognizing a longtime state leader and a student summer missionary who gave his life in service to others.

The convention theme was "Celebrating God's Timeless Word."

The 1,360 registered messengers reversed a several-year trend of dwindling attendance. Messenger registration for the 1998 meeting was 1,304.

Other than officer elections, no business matter was contested. Mississippi Baptists continued their practice of unity in business and worship.

McGregor succeeds Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, who served two one-year terms and was not eligible for re-election.

McGregor defeated Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven, in a runoff by a margin 446 to 281.

Also nominated for president was retired Mississippi college administrator Van D. Quick. The initial ballot was McGregor, 398; Butler, 357; and Quick, 296.

Also elected were first vice-president William "Bill" Smith, director of missions for Lee Association in Tupelo; and second vice-president Dale Holloway, pastor of Hickory Ridge Church, Rankin Association, and retired national bivocational ministry consultant for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Smith defeated Bill Hurt, pastor of First Church, Canton, by a vote of 397-287. Holloway defeated Leroy Brewer, pastor of First Church, Fannin, by a vote of 305-180.

Reelected by acclamation were recording secretary Gus Merritt, retired pastor, Newton; and associate recording secretary

Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch.

The CP budget for the year 2000 passed without discussion.

Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) portion of the budget totaled \$9,786,135, or 34.85%.

Any monies received over \$28,083,349, will be divided 50%

Gordon Sansing for 67 years in the ministry. In addition to numerous pastorates, Sansing served as MBCB associate executive secretary.

A resolution was passed honoring the life and ministry of John Wesley Weems, who died this summer at age 21 while serving as a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Mexico.

As part of his official duties, convention president Register named the 2000 Committee on Committees: Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon (chair); P.J. Scott, pastor of First Church, Olive Branch; David Williams, pastor of New Hope Church, Monticello; Johnny Walker, pastor of First Church, Winona; and Wayne Van Horn, pastor of First Church, Columbia.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting for the year 2000 will take place Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at First Church, Jackson.

Ernest Sadler, longtime Mississippi pastor and current director of missions for Jackson Association in Pascagoula, was selected by the convention's Time, Place, and Preacher Committee to preach the 2000 convention sermon.



INCREASED ATTENDANCE — Messengers and guests at the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting held October 26-27 at First Church, Jackson, begin the October 26 evening session with worship and celebration of God's blessings. The 1,360 registered messengers at the 1999 meeting marked an upswing in attendance over previous years. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

The budget is a 5.55% increase over the 1999 CP budget of \$26,607,890.

Of the \$28,083,349 budget, 37%, or \$10,390,839, goes to Southern Baptist causes. Home mission work in Mississippi receives \$265,440 of that amount.

Also, a special fund for unreached nations, international partnership missions, and North American partnership missions each receive a half-percent of the budget, or \$140,417.

The convention's matching portion of the Church Annuity program is \$810,000.

Mississippi institutions and agencies will receive \$7,096,375, or 25.27%.

Those are Baptist Children's Village, \$505,740; Board of Ministerial Education, \$357,114; Christian Action Commission, \$283,778; Christian Education (divided among the three Baptist colleges), \$4,868,400; Christian Education Capital Needs, \$650,000; and the Historical Commission, \$54,330.

The Mississippi

to Christian education; 30% to international missions; 10% to North American missions; and 10% to Mississippi missions.

A resolution honored L.

## Convention officers elected



Newly-elected officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention include (front row, from left) Dale Holloway, pastor of Hickory Ridge Church, Rankin Association, and former bivocational consultant for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, second vice-president; Kermit McGregor, pastor of First Church, Mendenhall, president; Bill Smith, director of missions for Lee Association, Tupelo, first vice president; (back row, from left) Gus Merritt, retired pastor, Newton, recording secretary; and Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, assistant recording secretary. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

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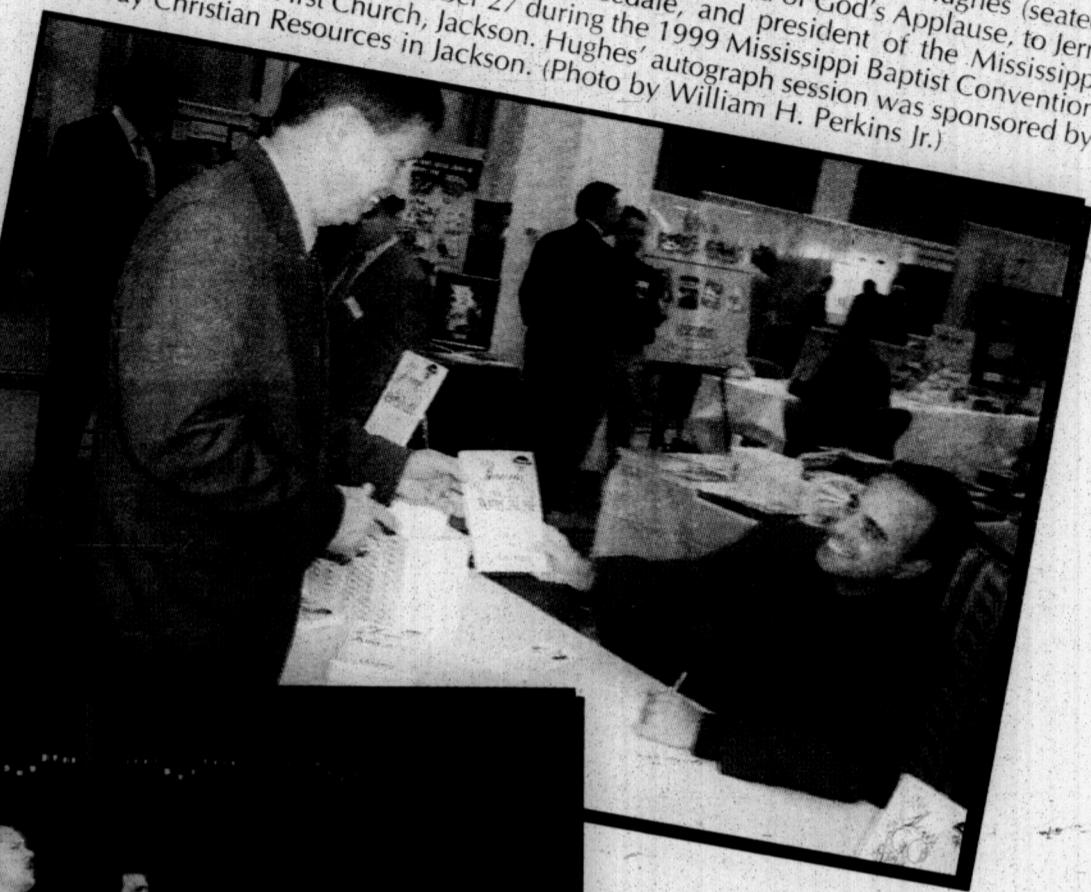
MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

# ❖ 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention ❖



**DRAPER ADDRESSES WIVES** — Carol Ann Draper (second from left), wife of LifeWay Christian Resources president Jimmy Draper, was the featured speaker at the 1999 Ministers' Wives Conference October 25 at First Church, Jackson. Welcoming Draper to Mississippi were (from left) Betty Scott of First Church, Olive Branch; Rana Burt of Calvary Church, Pascagoula; and Cassie Stanteen of First Church, Vicksburg. Draper told conference participants that she tries to put personal crises into perspective by remembering, "my situation is not an earthquake." The annual Ministers' Wives Conference is sponsored by the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

**COLLECTOR'S COPY** — Mississippi College faculty member Les Hughes (seated) delivers an autographed copy of his new book, *The Sound of God's Applause*, to Jerry Mixon, pastor of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, October 27 during the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting at First Church, Jackson. Hughes' autograph session was sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources in Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**PRAISING THE LORD** — The Ark, a group of former Ukrainian coal miners touring the world to spread the Gospel message through music, perform at the October 26 evening session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting at First Church, Jackson. Mississippi Baptists are entering the second year of a three-year partnership with Baptists in Ukraine. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

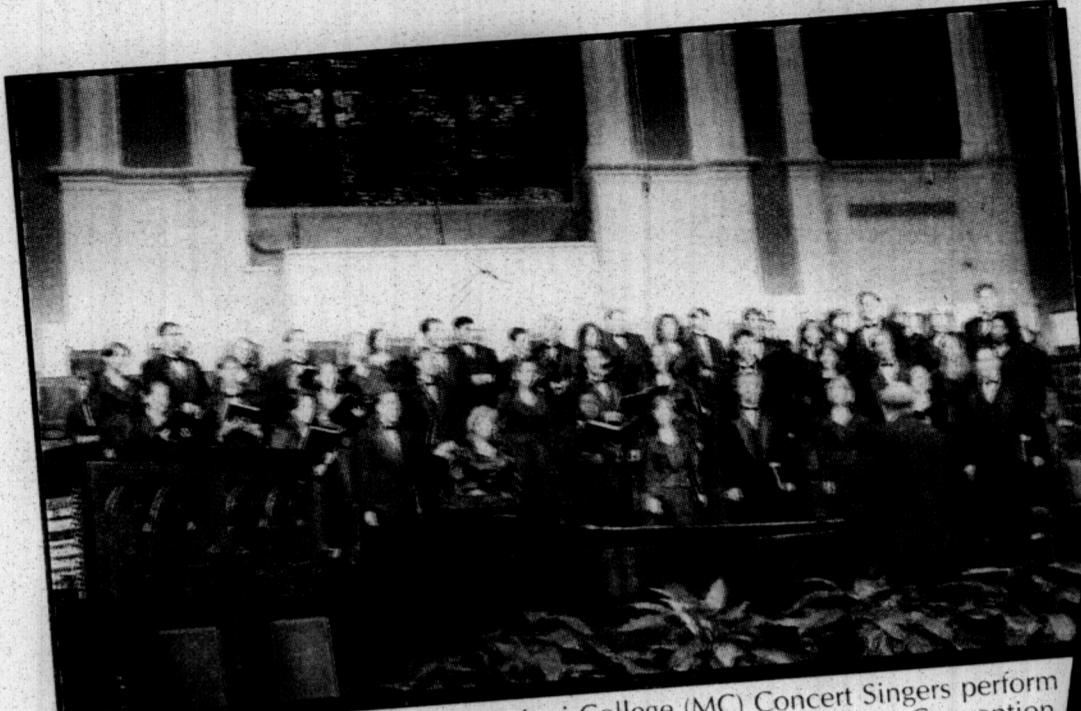


**CALL TO SALVATION** — Native American evangelist Leslie Clark of Oklahoma preaches October 27 to the closing session of the 1999 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson. Clark has served as a catalytic consultant for Native Americans at the Baptist General Convention of Texas and has written lesson materials for Native American Sunday School literature. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**SINGING OUT** — Graham Smith, director of the church music department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, leads congregational praise at the October 26 evening session of the 1999 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson. The Mississippi Singing Churchmen (background) also performed during the session. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

# ❖ October 26-27 • First Church, Jackson ❖



**CONCERT PRAISE** — The Mississippi College (MC) Concert Singers perform October 27 at the closing session of the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting at First Church, Jackson. Their performance was followed by Howell W. Todd, MC president, who presented the annual report of the Baptist-affiliated colleges in Mississippi: MC in Clinton, Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, and William Carey College in Hattiesburg. The presidents of the three colleges rotate each year in providing the college report to convention messengers during the closing session of the meeting. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**YOUNGEST 'MESSENGER'** — Ron (center) and Denise Harrison, and their four-and-a-half-month old son Will visit The Baptist Record booth in the exhibit hall during the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting at First Church, Jackson. Ron Harrison is the pastor of Ackerman Church, Ackerman. (Photo by Carl M. White)



**CROSS OF CHRIST** — Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), describes the board's new logo to messengers and guests who attended the October 26 evening session of the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting at First Church, Jackson. The service-marked logo, a product of the MBCB church information support team, was first put into service earlier this year and is currently being used to identify personnel, programs, and events associated with MBCB. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**CAST YOUR VOTE** — Recording Secretary Gus Merritt of Newton gives instruction to the messengers of the 164th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, on how to vote. Looking on is assistant recording secretary, Michael Weeks of Olive Branch. (Photo by Carl M. White)



**CONVENTION PREACHER** — Randy Turner, pastor of First Church, Laurel, delivers the convention sermon at the October 26 afternoon session of the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting at First Church, Jackson. The Time, Place, and Preacher Committee selected Ernest Sadler, director of missions for Jackson Association in Pascagoula, to deliver the convention sermon at the 2000 annual meeting October 31-November 1 at First Church, Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



## 2000 Mississippi Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

October 31-November 1  
First Baptist Church



**PASTOR'S CONFERENCE LEADERS** — Daryl Oster (left), pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon, was chosen as president-elect of the Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference during the group's October 25 meeting at First Church, Jackson, prior to the start of the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting. Oster will serve with Richard Johnson (center), pastor of Tate Church, Corinth, and current president of the pastor's conference. The outgoing conference president is Jim Butler (right), pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

# SBC president addresses state's pastors

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The 1999 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference on October 25 at First Church, Jackson, enjoyed an apparent rise in attendance while delivering sermons from Mississippi pastors, out-of-staters, and the president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

SBC president Paige Patterson, who also serves as president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., warned that "most of the world believes there is still something they can do to make themselves acceptable to God. Don't abandon salvation by grace alone."

Patterson also predicted that the "greatest crisis" of the next century will be inclusivism — the proposition that all manner of ideas and beliefs are acceptable under the umbrella of faith.

Richard Johnson, pastor of Tate

Church, Corinth, and incoming president of the pastor's conference, said in his sermon, "I'm not as worried about 'Y2K' as I am 'C2K.' What is the church going to be doing?"

Steve Gaines, pastor of First Church, Gardendale, Ala., and president of the Alabama Baptist Pastor's Conference, preached on the characteristics of a revived church.

"We need a fresh movement of God in our churches," he said.

James Lewis, pastor of Carriage Hills Church, Southaven, used Christ's parable of the prodigal son to drive home his point, "We need a renewed sense of heaviness that there are people dying and wasting away in a pig pen."

Alabama evangelist Junior Hill repeated Paul's exhortations to Timothy as listed in 1 Tim. 4:1. He encouraged the assembled pastors to "preach when it looks good... preach when it doesn't look good."

Eric Thomas, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, preached on the tragedy of the missed harvest and posed three questions Jesus asks his followers today:

- ◆ "Do you have the same hunger I have?"
- ◆ "Do you see what I see?"
- ◆ "Will you go with me?"

Arthur Siggers, pastor of Mt. Olive Church in Hattiesburg, told the pastors, "When it's midnight in your life, pray to God... praise God... and patiently wait on God. Any time God shows up is the right time."

Tommy Mitchell, pastor of First Church, Pearl, delivered a testimony on the impact of the FAITH program in the church he pastors. He reported that the FAITH program has created a "soul consciousness" and an "atmosphere of excitement" among church members.

Wayne Marshall, pastor of Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch, also delivered a testimony of his calling to Longview Heights and how God has blessed the



Patterson

faithfulness of the congregation.

Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven, and president for the pastor's conference for 1999, presided over the two-session meeting.

Music was provided by the Celebration Choir and Orchestra, along with a number of soloists, from Trinity Church.

The 2000 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference is scheduled for October 30 at First Church, Jackson. Program personalities will be announced in the summer of next year.

For more information, contact Richard Johnson, conference president, at Tate Baptist Church, 1201 Harper Road, Corinth, MS 38834. Telephone: (662) 286-2935.

## Religious educators meet at Ridgecrest, Madison

By Don and Judy Hicks  
Correspondents

The Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association (MBREA) held its annual fall luncheon October 25 at Ridgecrest Church, Madison. The Mississippi Childhood Education Association (MCEA) also met with MBREA.

Rodney Bounds, minister of activities at First Church, Clinton, entertained early in the meeting. He led the group in the game, "Know Your TV Show Theme Songs."

The main feature of the program was "Journey of Joy" led by J.J. Jasper, a disk jockey for American Family Radio. In addition to his humorous presentation, Jasper shared an encouraging devotional based on Phil. 1:6.

David Rogers, minister of education at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, and MBREA secretary-treasurer, reported that 60 reservations were made for the luncheon. He also said the present combined membership

of MBREA and MCEA stands at 106 people.

Alan Wilson, minister of childhood education at Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch, MBREA second vice-president, and MCEA president, announced that the childhood

education speaker at the January 27-29 joint MBREA/MCEA convention in Vicksburg will be Cindy Lumpkin of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville.

MBREA president Michael Johnson announced that Wayne Jones, minister of education at



**EDUCATORS MEET** — Officers of the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association, elected during the group's meeting October 25 at Ridgecrest Church, Madison, include (from left) Alan Wilson, children's minister, Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch, second vice-president; Mike McCool, minister of education at Ridgecrest Church, Madison, first vice-president; Michael Johnson, Mississippi College professor, president; program speaker J.J. Jasper of American Family Radio; Ben Atkinson, minister of education at First Church, Vicksburg, president-elect; and David Rogers, minister of education at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, secretary-treasurer. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

First Church, Franklin, Tenn., will address ministers of education during the convention.

There will be two special features at the MBREA/MCEA annual convention in January:

- The Louisiana Baptist Religious Education Association will meet with its Mississippi counterparts.

- For the first time, youth ministers will have their own program during the convention. The speaker will be Sean Keith of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. Keith was formerly a consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

For more information on MBREA activities, contact Johnson at P.O. Box 4012, Clinton, MS 39058. Telephone: (662) 925-3296. E-mail: mjohnson@mc.edu.

For more information on MCEA activities, contact MCEA president Wilson at Longview Heights Church, 4501 Goodman Road, Olive Branch, MS 38654. Telephone: (662) 895-1900.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



County Line Church, Neshoba Association, note burning

County Line Church, Neshoba Association, held a note burning service for its sanctuary and educational space on Sept. 12. Pictured (from left) are members of the building committee Mark Smith; Dale Yates; David Windstead; Barron Pilgrim, pastor; Charlie Gardner, chairman; Bobby Cleveland; Dub Rainer; and James Earl Smith. Not pictured are Ray Hamill and James Gardner.

Volunteers from Mississippi spent time serving at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. Pictured (from left) are Wayne and Betty Crenshaw, members of Park Place Church, Brandon; and Venita and Jim Boggan, members of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. For information on becoming a volunteer at Ridgecrest, write to: P.O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770.

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November 12-13  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

The retreat is for people 12 years of age, their parents, teachers, friends, and pastors/ministers.

Registration begins 3 p.m. Fri. and concludes 1 p.m. Sat.

**COST: \$25 PER PERSON**

Pre-registration fee of \$5 is due November 10 at the Baptist Building along with a list of people attending.

The balance of \$20 is due on Fri., November 12.

One adult counselor for every five campers of the same sex is required.

For more information, contact:

Larry Salter, MBCB

PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

601-292-3297 or toll-free outside Jackson 1-800-748-1651

**First Church, Lucedale**, will host a Mission Fair for Area 9 churches which includes George, Greene, Jackson, Gulf Coast, and Pearl River counties on Nov. 6 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The Fair will include a display of on going and one time mission projects by participating churches. Special guests will include retired missionaries Tom and Gloria Thurman. The Thurmans were appointed by the International Mission Board to Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) in June 1964 and served there until their recent retirement. They currently reside in Columbia.



Sullivan and McMillan



Four churches in Mississippi recently got involved in mission activity. Corinth Church, Nicholson; Eastside Church, Pearl; Faith Memorial Church, Poplarville; and Emmanuel Church, Nicholson; participated in a mission event called Y-Missions-Building on the Firm Foundation. The first group was the Road Workers who built bridges in the community by setting up Backyard Bible Clubs. The Roofers raised the roof with creative ministries. The Surveyors helped build better relationships in the community. And the last group was the Maintenance crew which helped maintain an atmosphere of worship by working on the church grounds, helping clean-up the neighborhoods, and building crosses that were placed on the Pearl River Association property.



Women on Mission of Como Church, Como

The Women on Mission (WOM) of Como Church, Como, will have a steak supper beginning at 5:30 p.m. and Walk By Faith will be singing at 7 p.m. on Nov. 13. For more information, call the church at (601) 767-8831. Kenneth Kelly is pastor.

Mississippi Mission Story in the evening service kicking off Como's Week of Prayer for State Missions. Pictured are Knight, Powell, Jerlean Mathews, and Betty Presley.

Wesson Church, Wesson, will sponsor a fish fry on Nov. 6 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at (601) 643-5722.



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## Homecomings

**First, Lauderdale**: Nov. 14; 10:45 a.m.; covered dish fellowship meal following services; Mike Russell, former pastor, leading the worship; Tom Harrison, music; Jerry Bishop, pastor.

**First, Nettleton**: Nov. 14; services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; L. R. Magers, Nettleton, guest speaker; Charlie Farrar, Columbus, guest singer; revival, Nov. 14 (night) through Nov. 17; Greg Bowers, preaching; Charlie Farrar, music; George C. Johnson, pastor.

**Beulah Church, Lexington**, had a ribbon cutting for its new Fellowship Hall/Education Building during Homecoming services on Sept. 26. Pictured (from left) are Doug Lawson, pastor; and deacons Buster McNeer, Billy Joe Gilmore, Mills Heard, George Martin, and Bill White.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Members of Providence Church, Tiplersville

**Members of Providence Church, Tiplersville**, recently traveled to Frazer, Montana, located on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, to help complete the 26x40 metal building that will be the Pahtn Wakpa (Porcupine Creek) Baptist Mission. The 22 member crew from Providence Church completed the plumbing and electrical work, insulated the walls, hung and finished the Sheetrock, built and installed a steeple, did some landscaping, and other work at the church.

### Piland undergoes brain surgery

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)** — After undergoing surgery Oct. 20 for a massive brain tumor, Harry Piland is recovering at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., with a positive prognosis for the future.

Piland, director of the Sunday School division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention for 16 years until his retirement in 1994, was diagnosed with a fast-growing brain tumor after being involved in a car accident Oct. 15 near Forrest City, Ark.

Bill Taylor, director of LifeWay's Sunday School group, said doctors were optimistic after the surgery that they had removed all of the tumor. Piland will undergo radiation and chemotherapy which doctors believe will eradicate any remaining cancer. Because such a tumor is subject to return, he will be monitored closely.

After his retirement, Piland served as associate pastor/minister of education at First Church, Dallas, for two years. He and his wife, Pat, then returned to the Nashville area. He has served as an adjunct professor of Christian education at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and has continued leading Sunday School conferences throughout the nation.

**Kendrick Church, Corinth**, has called **Tim Roaten** as pastor effective Oct. 3. A native of Union County, Roaten received his education at Blue Mountain College. His previous place of service was Ebenezer Church, Bassfield.



Roaten

**Salem Church, Walthall County**, has called **Bradley Rushing** as pastor. He is a graduate of Southwest Mississippi Community College, Mississippi College, and will graduate in May from New Orleans Seminary with a master of divinity. He previously served as minister

Some members worked three days at another church installing lights and doing electrical work. Others members worked at a third church, completing and painting a wheelchair ramp, and working on their central heat and air unit. Those who did not work on the building prepared and delivered meals each day for the others. Three thousand dollars was also given for the completion of the church building in Frazer. The Tribal Council donated the land for this church building and the North American Mission Board and the Hi-Line Baptist Association are helping to support the new work. Members of the mission crew include: Zack and Juana Hopper; Jimmy and Betty Harrison; Calvin, Paula, and Luke Devore; Mike, Shelly, and John Devore; Tom, Christy, and Quinton Lindsey; Leroy, Linda, Alex, and Brett Hobson; Roy and Jason Gunn; Gene Knight; Jim Tomlinson; and Shane Price, pastor.

**Pass Road Church, Gulfport**, will host "Praise

### STAFF CHANGES

to youth and children at Bogue Chitto Church, Pricedale.

**Morgantown, Natchez**: Nov. 7-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 11:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; John Hilburn, guest speaker; Tony Hinton, music.

**Griffith Memorial, Jackson**: Nov. 7-10; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John McCall, evangelist; Stephen Bufkin, music; Bruce Cappleman, pastor.

**Calvary, Yazoo City**: Nov. 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Eugene Norris, Southaven, evangelist; Cindi Grace, Satartia, music; Richard Colwell, pastor.

Gathering '99" Nov. 5-7. Services will be 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. Special guests include Vicki Yoh'e, Clint Brown, Alvin Slaughter, Paul

and Billie Kay Tsika, Pass Road Praise Team, and Gerald and Cindy Simmons. Edgar Jackson is senior pastor and Keith Thrash is pastor. For more information, call (228) 863-1697.



**Wanda Lee** (foreground), National President of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, was recently in North Delta Association with four of her Acteen Activators and two other leaders to do manual labor which was a part of their Acteen program. They were assigned to a construction project at Strangers Rest Church. Lee and her group were joined by Cindy Walker of Friendship Church, Brookhaven, (far right) and a construction team from Calvary Church, Dothan, Ala. "The roof of the church was torn off, new trusses and roof put on, and the church is practically new," said M. C. Johnson, Executive Director, North Delta Association.

### REVIVAL DATES

**Belle Fountain, Ocean Springs**: Nov. 7-10; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., Ernest Sadler, director of missions, Jackson County Association; 7 p.m. nightly; Others speakers are Wayne Meyers, Tommy Brill, and Fred Wolfe; Joe Howard, music.

**Indian Springs, Laurel**:

Nov. 8-14; Mon.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Mike Bernard, Athens, Tenn., evangelist; Buddy Keyes, pastor.

**Wesson, Wesson**: Nov. 14-18; 7 p.m. nightly; Sun., Talmadge Smith; Mon., Bendon Ginn; Tues., Kermit McGregor; Wed., Bill Causey; and Thurs., Jim Futral.

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## STUDY EVOLUTION CLAIMS

Editor:

In response to the September 30 Baptist Record article entitled "Fighting the Good Fight Against Evolution," the writer said that evolutionists suffered humiliating setbacks recently. So have young-earth creationists (e.g., Henry Morris' supposed human footprints with dinosaur tracks). The Wilberforce-Huxley debate and the Scopes trial were shattering defeats for young-earth creationism. There is evidence to support evolution. We have fossil records of whales with legs and dinosaurs with feathers. Today, we constantly have to improve insecticides and medicines to combat insects and bacterial viruses that evolve to become immune.

Young-earth creationists are not defending the truth of the Bible, but the veracity of their interpretation of Genesis. Christian faith should not be hindered by false claims. Yet, the Institute for Creation Research has been coming forward for 30 years with claims (e.g., dust on the moon, etc.), all of which have been debunked. Proverbs 18:17 says, "The first to plead his case seems just, until another comes and examines him." Acts 17:11 says the Bereans were noble because (like scientists) they "...examined the Scriptures each day, to see if those things were true." And because they did, their faith was strengthened.

We should not be fighting against evolution because it has never opposed the Bible. It strengthens it. For further read-

ing on creation, evolution, and the age of the earth, I recommend the books *The Genesis Question* by Hugh Ross (NavPress, 1998) and *Genesis and the Big Bang* by Gerald Schroeder (Bantam Books, 1990).

Michael Williams  
Clinton

## THANK YOU, LORD

Editor:

Crossgates Church in Brandon hosted a Global

Impact Missions Conference Sept. 8-12. Our church hosted 20 missionary families from home and foreign fields.

We shared rich fellowship over meals, prayer meetings, praise gatherings, golf games, and social gatherings.

The most cherished experience for all was building relationships with brothers and sisters around the world.

Throughout this conference, Crossgates Church hosted over 4,000 in corporate worship in five worship services; commit-

ted over \$213,000 to our missions offering; and gave over \$35,000 to the missionaries that we hosted.

There were 96 recorded decisions for missions service, both career and volunteer, made during this worship experience.

On behalf of my great church, I want to say thank you to the Lord, for allowing us to experience him and to hear his call. May God use this body to touch his people around the world!

Kim Rowlen  
Brandon

## NAMES IN THE NEWS



Deacons of First Church, Madison

Deacons ordained by First Church, Madison, on

Mike Hartley, David Varner, and Robert Montgomery.

September 26, 1999 are (front row from left) Larry Ford, Jeff Lewis, Floyd Lowery, Jay Bourne, (second row) Terry Dahlem, Bill Colson, Kevin Widup, Danny Lynn, Barry Woodward, (third row) Art Mordecai, Lee Temple,

North Ripley Church, Ripley, honored G. W. Lindsey (right), with a recognition service commemorating his 40 years of service as deacon. Lamar Grisham, pastor, presented Lindsey with a plaque. Michael Turner, music director, read a poem written by Lindsey's daughter, Beverly Brown.



Lindsey and Grisham

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

The William Carey College Speech and Debate Team (Forensics) placed second overall at the Bicker Speech Tournament held at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. In addition to the second place ranking, the Carey team also placed second in Individual Events Sweepstakes. The team currently ranks third in the nation, according to the Pi Kappa Delta Forensics Honorary. Nineteen colleges and universities from five states competed in the tournament.

The Mississippi College Players will present Connie Ray's "Smoke on the

Mountain" in Aven Little Theater on Nov. 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 20 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 14 at 2 p.m. matinee. For information on tickets and reservations, call (601) 925-3453.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Church Music Conference has selected Blue Mountain College (BMC) student Scott Hardy as the 1999-2000 W.C. Morgan Scholarship recipient. Hardy, a senior music major, is currently serving as the minister of children and youth at Faith Church, Hickory Flat. The W. C. Morgan Scholarship fund was named for long time director of the Mississippi

Baptist Convention Board Church Music Department. Contribution to the fund can be made through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Pictured (from left) are P. Charles Meyer, chair Music Department, BMC, and Hardy.



Meyer and Hardy

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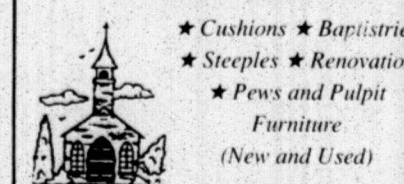
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**FULL-TIME MUSIC/YOUTH MINISTER** with benefits and housing. Send resume to: Personnel Dept. West End Baptist Church, P.O. Box 388, West Point, MS 39773.

**HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH** in Jackson is seeking nursery workers for Sunday and Wednesday night services. Pay is negotiable. For more information call the church at 601-372-0132.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORA** is currently seeking a minister of music/education. Seminary degree is preferred. Send resume along with photo to: FBC Flora, P.O. Box 163, Flora, MS 39071. Call 601-879-8022 for more information.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Robinwood Baptist Church, Harrison County, Saucier, MS. Send resumes to: Robinwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 580, Saucier, MS 39574.

**BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Send resume to: Search Committee, Kilmichael Baptist Church, P.O. Box 142, Kilmichael, MS 39747 or call 662-262-5507.

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Coping with transition

Deuteronomy 31:1-8; 34:5-8

By Jerry L. Smith

Transitions can be burdens or blessing. The loss of a job, the departure of a loved one, or a cross-country move can build you up, or do you in.

The Israelites experienced a transition in leadership. Moses' assistant, Joshua, took over the reigns of leadership from the Egyptian deliverer and purposed to move the people of God into the promised land.

Your transition may not involve moving to a new land, but it may involve moving into a "new" house. This house may be absent a daughter that's gone to college or a wife that's gone to heaven. This house may be a lot smaller now that you've retired

and got your wife "under your feet" (or vice-versa). The house may be missing a husband due to divorce or a paycheck due to layoffs.

Our lesson this week will help you discover ways God assists his people during times of transition.

**Momentous transition (31:1-6).** Times of transition can be filled with anxiety. When the children of Israel discovered that Joshua was taking Moses' place, I'm sure they wondered: Is he an effective leader? Has God anointed him?

Moses assured them that God was with Joshua. When they were tempted to be afraid, Moses encouraged them to follow Joshua and submit to his



Smith

leadership.

To me, transitions have been some of the most fearful times in my life. For example, when I left a comfortable, suburban church to assume the pastorate of a struggling mission in South Florida, I was afraid. I realized how unfounded my fears were when God reassured me of his protection and made provision for my family.

If you're going through a time of transition, be strong and courageous. Don't allow fear to weaken your faith.

**Marvelous promise (31:7-8).** One pastor was preaching how Jesus was the only perfect person to ever live, when a man in his congregation stood up and said, "Preacher, don't forget to mention my wife's first husband!" This apocryphal story illustrates how the Israelites may have compared Joshua to Moses. Moses assured the

Israelites that God's anointing was upon Joshua's leadership.

If you think the presence of God has left you in the midst of your time of transition, think again. Your circumstances may have changed, but your God hasn't. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Whenever you feel alienated from God, remember that he is not the one who has moved.

**Mournful loss (34:5-8).** How would you feel if the man that you'd been following for 40 years suddenly died? You'd probably feel the same way that much of America felt when JFK was assassinated. Stunned. Shocked. Saddened.

When thrust into a time of transition at the sudden loss of a loved one, our lives go into a tailspin. You ask, "What do I do now? How am I going to go on? What does my future hold?"

The nation of Israel mourned the death of Moses for 30 days. This was a healthy

way to reflect upon his life, remember his accomplishments and his sacrifices.

Have you adequately mourned the loss of a close friend or loved one? Mourning is psychologically necessary if you expect to recover from your loss. Grief is required before healing can be experienced.

**Magnificent leader (34:9).** Joshua proved that Moses was correct in the assessment of his leadership. He was an able leader and a mighty warrior for God. He led the people with a heart of compassion and a spirit of courage.

Your time of transition can be a burden or a blessing. You've got to decide which it will be. Under Joshua's leadership, Israel experienced even greater blessings. Will you experience greater blessings from God as a result of the change that's taken place in your life? The decision is up to you.

Smith is pastor of First Church, Summit.

## LIFE AND WORK

### Running from God

Jonah 1:1-16

By Tom Atwood

All Christians should be "great commission". Christians and all churches are to be "great commission" churches. Both individually and corporately, God has given us the responsibility of taking the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. This year's Lottie Moon Offering has as its theme: "Loving the Lost." Sometimes this is no easy task!

**Call to go (vv. 1-2).** Abraham heard God's call in Haran. Moses heard God's call on Sinai. Isaiah heard God's call in the temple. For Peter it came in Galilee and for Paul it was on the Damascus road. The call of God came to Jonah to go to "the great city of Nineveh and preach against it" (v. 1a). God said that



Atwood

"its wickedness has come up before me" (v. 1b). God issues a specific call to a specific place, etc. However, in a far more general sense, God has issued a call to all believers to share the gospel with a needy world.

Some information is so important that it demands sharing. Surely the compelling call to go and give God's message has such importance. If we, like Jonah, have been entrusted with God's message, it is imperative that God's call be heard and heeded.

**Attempt to run (v. 3).** Like others, Jonah "ran away from the Lord." Those who know God, know that one can never escape his presence. That is

both a comforting and a convicting thought. God has promised that he will never leave us or forsake us. His promise engenders a confident faith but it can be a troublesome reality. Especially, when one is running from the call of God.

Jonah went in the opposite direction. He would have gone overland to Nineveh instead he went to Joppa to set sail for Tarshish. Why did he try to "flee from the Lord?" Some suggest that Jonah was self-righteous and wanted God's wrath to fall on the wicked Ninevites. Others point to the fact that they were racially and culturally obnoxious to Jonah and thus he resisted God's errand of mercy. Whatever the motive, evading God's call to carry out his message and mission is an act of sinful rebellion.

**God's persistence (vv. 4-10).** God responded to Jonah's

rebellion by sending a violent storm on the sea. The sailors prayed and lightened the ship as Jonah slept below deck. To determine who was responsible for this storm the sailors cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. In response to their questions, Jonah told them everything that had happened between him and the Lord.

One can never successfully run from the Lord and his call to be involved in his mission. It is noteworthy that Jonah's attempt to escape God's presence and evade God's call brought unnecessary problems and difficulties to both himself and others. It is tragic and foolish to refuse to do the bidding of our God and Savior.

Jonah was found out. The God who rules heaven and earth shook both heaven and earth to bring Jonah and his circumstances to light. Believers are not their own. They have been bought with a precious price of shed blood. They are to

do God's will, not their own. Running from God's call is futile and believers hurt themselves and others when they do.

**Personal responsibility (vv. 1-16).** As the storm grew ever more intense, the sailors asked Jonah what could be done to calm the sea and allow them to return safely. His reply was to throw him overboard into the sea since he was the problem. Though reticent to do so, they threw him overboard and the storm calmed.

God's people must bear responsibility for their failure to respond in obedience to God's missionary call. It is his message of good news by which Christ has saved us and for which he has called us. God "has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:19-20).

Atwood is pastor of First Church, Oxford.

lifted up his hand and with his rod he smote the rock twice; and the water came out abundantly..." (20:10b-11a).

The Lord responded to Moses' disobedience immediately saying, "Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children, therefore, ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them" (20:12).

At the beginning of this episode, Miriam, Moses' sister, died. Soon after this episode God instructed Moses to take Aaron and his son to Mount Hor and strip Aaron "of his garments, and put them on Eleazar, his son: and Aaron shall be gathered unto his people, and shall die there" (20:26).

Why? Because God said, Aaron "shall not enter into the land which I have given unto the children of Israel, because [he] rebelled against my word at the water of Meribah"

(20:24). With that pronouncement, God wiped out the initial family who had been leading the Israelites. Their wandering ended, but their trek continued.

As always God's people continue to take his word lightly. Oh, but what serious consequences disobedience brings. God leads, guides, and hovers as a mother hen nurturing her chicks, but when repeated rebellion follows, "there is sin unto death" (1 John 5:16). We are told by Paul that God will "deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (1 Corinthians 5:5).

After having observed such dire consequences, the people still grumbled, speaking "against God and against Moses..." (Numbers 21:5). God in his anger sent fiery serpents to crawl among their midst biting them, killing them. Probably the fieriness was the burning precipitated by the snakebite; however,

having come from God it would be greater than man could endure. God can get man's attention, and one day will have the attention of all; however, on this earth God in his merciful grace never robs man of his free will.

The Israelites once again came, confessed, and requested that Moses intercede for them. As always, God in his faithfulness made a way of escape. "Set [a fiery serpent] upon a pole; and...everyone that is bitten...[when he looks] upon it, shall live" (21:8).

There again God the Father in his instructions painted a picture of the redemptive work his Son would later do upon the cross. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3: 14-15).

Fleming is a member of Bond Church, Neshoba Association.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Triumphing over obstacles

Numbers 19:1-21:35

By Sylvia Fleming

After years of wandering, the Israelites were back at Kadesh, once again finding themselves without water, and attacking Moses. These complaining people were even saying they envied those who had died in the plague.

As Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the Lord interceding for their people, they demonstrated the faith they had in Jehovah God, recognizing the Lord as their El Shaddai who never failed to supply their need. In answer to their prayer, the Shekinah Glory appeared to these men, speaking to Moses giving him specific instructions

for their dilemma.

Following the answer to prayer, Moses manifested his humanity by ignoring God's instructions, giving way to anger and disgust with the whining Israelites, allowing them to rule his actions. God's answer for one circumstance does not mean it will be his answer for a subsequent problem. Years before, God had instructed Moses to smite the rock and bring forth water (Exodus 17:6); however, this time, God told him to simply speak (Numbers 20:18).

Moses said, "Hear now ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses



Fleming

lifted up his hand and with his rod he smote the rock twice; and the water came out abundantly..." (20:10b-11a).

The Lord responded to Moses' disobedience immediately saying, "Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children, therefore, ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them" (20:12).

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Why? Because God said, Aaron "shall not enter into the land which I have given unto the children of Israel, because [he] rebelled against my word at the water of Meribah"

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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e-mail: bcv1@misnet.com

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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1-30, 1999

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Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
Greg & Cheryl Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. William I. Parks Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. R. B. Townes Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne McDonald  
**Mr. Dennis Huff**  
Lee & Marshalee Gillespie  
**Sue Hughey**  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Garst  
**Father of Mrs. Dan Hull**  
Dr. & Mrs. Reggie H. Broom  
**Melissa Jackson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton W.  
Edmondson  
**Mrs. Bessie Jackson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold

## Clearing the way



Volunteers from First Church, McComb, recently spent their Saturday helping with maintenance and grounds work at the India Nunnery campus of The Baptist Children's Village.



# Educator: let children learn from mistakes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — If a child is to develop integrity, he must be allowed to feel the pain of his own wrongdoing, an educator and author said.

"We want our children to be responsible, but we don't hold them accountable for anything that would upset them, make them feel bad, or lower their self-esteem," Madelyn Swift told children's leaders attending a national conference in Nashville, Tenn.



UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN — Preschool directors from all over the country gathered in Nashville, Tenn., October 18-21, to be a part of the National Preschool-Children's Convention at LifeWay Christian Resources. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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HZXVAF, JXZ FYD VS JXZ  
AVGF LVNZJX, YCF JXD  
QOVPA QXYAA HZ  
FPBPFZF PC JXZ NPFQJ  
VS JXZZ.

UZLXYGPyX SVKGJZZC: VCZ

Clue: H = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Obadiah One: Fifteen.

For example, he said, Thomas Edison, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Winston Churchill were "promoted" in school from one teacher to another because they were difficult children.

"The key to working with an ADHD child is not to fix them and make them like everyone else," he said, "but to take their quirk and nourish it until it works to the child's advantage."

Sears said more than 2 million children in the United

Swift, president of Childright, an educational consulting and training firm, spoke on character development during the Oct. 18-21 National Preschool-Children's Convention sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. More than 700 leaders attended the convention.

Swift said she believes that if children are never held accountable for a wrongful action — "if they never hurt enough over it" — they won't learn to change their behavior.

"We need our children to feel pain, but we don't want to cause it. We want to allow them the pain they earn for themselves."

Swift gave the example of a young man who was expected to water the family's elderly dog while his parents were away. The boy failed to provide water for the dog during a hot, dry summer, and the dog died.

The mother attempted to comfort her son by telling him the dog was old anyway and would have died soon, said Swift, who considered this the wrong method of parenting. The mother should have been there for her son and hugged him, but she should not have tried to make him feel better for his wrong actions, she said.

"Our job is to help a kid live through it, but let him learn his lessons. To deny a child his pain denies him the opportunity to develop character and conscience."

Teaching children integrity and helping them build character requires rethinking

some trusted educational paradigms, she said. For example, proximity praise, or publicly praising one child displaying good behavior when the intent is to discipline another child with bad behavior, sends children the wrong message, she said.

Swift suggested teachers simply ask a child who is not paying attention in class to do so rather than praising another child for exhibiting correct behavior.

"Being direct does not mean you have to be ugly. What you are doing is sending the message to the child it was intended for rather than creating ill will by being indirect."

Another misdirected teaching tool, Swift believes, is exuberant praise for successes while making no comments about failures.

"One of the bill of goods we sell our children is that success is very important. What we are doing here is hooking self-esteem on success and accomplishments. What happens to self-esteem when our children fail or when they make a mistake?" she asked.

She said she believes parents and teachers who treat successes and failures with equal importance are ultimately allowing children to risk failures safely.

Swift is author of "Discipline for Life: Getting it Right with Children," a study program on discipline for leaders and teachers of children. More information may be found on her Internet site at <http://www.childright.com>.

## God has plans for ADD children, doctor believes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — God has something special planned for children who have Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), a pediatrician and author told participants in the National Preschool-Children's Convention, Oct. 18-21, in Nashville, Tenn.

LifeWay Church Resources, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, sponsored the event attended by more than 700 church leaders.

William Sears, a pediatrician from Capistrano Beach, Calif., said teachers and leaders at church can help determine and encourage the gifts and skills God has given children diagnosed with ADD or ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).

"If they are good at art," he illustrated, "give them a lot of art activity."

Sears, who is the author of a Broadman & Holman book, "The Complete Book of Christian Parenting and Child Care," among numerous other volumes, said children who are accurately diagnosed with ADD "are often very bright and creative children."

For example, he said, Thomas Edison, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Winston Churchill were "promoted" in school from one teacher to another because they were difficult children.

"The key to working with an ADHD child is not to fix them and make them like everyone else," he said, "but to take their quirk and nourish it until it works to the child's advantage."

Sears said more than 2 million children in the United

States are "drugged each day before they go to school. There is something not quite right here. On the other hand, there are many ADD children who can go through life successfully because of medication."

Three groups of children, he said, are misdiagnosed as ADD children: those with quirks, those with situational ADD, and those who are simply active and energetic.

"Neuro-biological quirks, or differences, cause some children to think, act, and learn differently — not less — but differently. Often they are quite bright, but they need a different

style of teaching because they learn differently."

Situational ADD, he said, occurs for some children following the divorce of their parents, an illness, or a move.

Those children who are extremely energetic — mostly boys — may not have ADD at all, he continued. Many healthy boys cannot sit still in a group activity but are happy and have energy that can be channeled in other ways.

ADD is misnamed, he told church staff and volunteer workers with preschoolers and children.

"These children can pay

attention," he said. "The ADD child who is a pitcher or catcher on a baseball team can go into hyperfocus. They can pay attention, but only to those things that have relevance to them. It is a selective attention problem."

Sears said medication "should never be used as the only treatment for ADD. It should be used in addition to a complete management plan including improved nutrition, teaching strategies, behavior management strategies [structure], and neuro-feedback, a relatively new treatment using electronic games which shut off if the child's concentration wanders."



## LifeAnswers

Ron Manpower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*The first time my husband committed adultery, I blamed it on my struggle with depression. When I ask him now if he is involved with someone, he does not answer. Should I try to catch him in the act?*

It sounds as if he is trying to play in two fields. Let him know that you are only willing to play in one field. For insight on how to handle this issue, read *Love Must Be Tough* by James Dobson. "Catching" him will be difficult. You are not an investigator, but you can be sure your heart is alerting you that something is

wrong. In time, you will find out all you need to know. Speak the truth in love but don't let him continue to jerk you around. Listen for signs that God is dealing with him, watch for repentance, and seek to understand the lessons the Lord wants to teach you through this process.

*My boyfriend is a Christian but doesn't see anything wrong with going to strip clubs with his friends. He says I can trust him, but I feel really bad when he goes there.*

If his conduct makes you feel bad and he doesn't

attempt to remedy that, he really doesn't care about you, does he? He is more into his own gratification than treating a sister in the Lord with respect and love. There is no honor or self-control in your relationship. He may go with you to church, but does he live a Spirit-filled life during the week? His walk and his talk don't match. Take a stand with him and see what happens. If he repents and loves you, your heart will know. If he only goes through the motions to make you feel better, flee from this situation as fast as you can!

*Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.*